Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 03992 142312Z

15
ACTION ACDA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9296
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T LONDON 3992

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM, UK, IN
SUBJECT: ANGLO-INDIAN TALKS ON NON-PROLIFERATION

1. THOMSON, ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY AT THE FCO, HAS GIVEN US A RESUME OF TALKS HE HAD IN NEW DELHI WITH TREVADI OF THE MFA ON THE SUBJECT OF NON-PROLIFERATION. THE THOMSON/TREVADI TALKS WERE HELD UNDER THE RUBRIC OF BUT SEPARATE FROM THE ANGLO-INDIAN CONSULTATIONS WHICH FCO DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY WILFORD ALSO HELD LAST WEEK WITH THE INDIANS. THOMSON EXPLAINED THAT THE TALKS ON NON-PROLIFERATION WERE HELD SEPARATELY IN ORDER TO CATER TO INDIAN SENSITIVITY ABOUT THIS SUBJECT.

2. THOMSON TOLD US THAT HE CAME AWAY A FEW DEGREES MORE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT INDIAN ATTITUDES. DESCRIBING THE GENERAL PATTERN OF HIS TALKS, THOMSON SAID THAT HE HAD
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 03992 142312Z

GENTLY URGED ON THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT A CATEGORIC STAND

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

ON NON-PROLIFERATION. TREVADI EXPRESSED THREE GENERAL THEMES:

A. INDIA WOULD NOT USE NUCLEAR POWER FOR "MILITARY PURPOSES";

B. WOULD NOT WORK AGAINST THE NPT OR THE REVIEW CONFERENCE; AND

C. WOULD NOT EXPORT NUCLEAR MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT OR TECHNOLOGY TO PROMOTE THE NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

THE INDIANS, IN THOMSON'S JUDGMENT, WERE CLEARLY NOT READY TO BACK UP THESE GENERALIZATIONS WITH CONCRETE ACTION.

3. HE HAD RAISED IN A MOST GENERAL WAY THE CONCEPT OF A SUPPLIERS' CLUB (WITHOUT IDENTIFYING ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS), AND ASKED WHETHER INDIA MIGHT BE DISPOSED TO JOIN. TREVADI ANSWERED EMPHATICALLY "NO, NOT AT ANY PRICE; IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO OUR PRINCIPLES." TREVADI INSISTED THAT INDIA HAD LITTLE, IF ANYTHING TO EXPORT IN WAY OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. THROUGHOUT THE TALKS TREVADI DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE TECHNOLOGY OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS SHOULD NOT BE KEPT FROM THE LDC'S, WHO SHOULD BENEFIT FROM PEACEFUL APPLICATIONS. WHEN THOMSON ASKED FOR INDIAN VIEWS ON THE POSITION A NUCLEAR COUNTRY SHOULD TAKE REGARDING EXPORT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, I.E., WITH SAFEGUARDS, WITHOUT SAFEGUARDS OR REFUSAL TO EXPORT, TREVADI WAS UNABLE TO GIVE ANY CONCRETE ANSWERS.

4. AS TO POSSIBLE INDIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE AS AN OBSERVER, REVADI TOLD THOMSON THAT INDIA WOULD ABSOLUTELY NOT ATTEND. (AT THIS POINT IN OUR CONVERSATION, THOMSON COMMENTED TO US THAT THE ONLY WAY, IN HIS JUDGMENT, TO MOVE THE INDIANS TO A MORE CO-OPERATIVE STANCE WOULD BE IF THEY WERE CRITICIZED BY THE LDC'S.) TREVADI MADE THE FURTHER POINT THAT THE INDIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE NPT REWRITTEN. THEY SEEM TO AC-

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CEPT, THOMSON SAID, THE ARGUMENT THAT VERTICAL PROLIFERATION HAD OCCURRED BUT WANTED TO SEE NO FURTHER INCREASE. THEYPROFESSED TO WANT TO SEE A COMPLETE HALT IN HORIZONTAL PROLIFERATION.

5. THERE WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION OF THE INDIAN EXPLOSION. TREVADI GAVE NO HINT AS TO WHETHER ANOTHER WAS PLANNED BEYOND SAYING "IF AND WHEN WE HAVE ANOTHER"; HE MADE THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

POINT THAT THE INDIANS ARE STILL EVALUATING THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST EXPLOSION. FINALLY, REGARDING A COMMITTEE IN THE IAEA ON PNE'S, TREVADI SHOWED WHOLEHARTED SUPPORT FOR UK IDEAS ALTHOUGH HE CRITICIZED SOME DETAILS OF THE UK DRAFT.

6. CLOSING, THOMSON SAID THAT TREVADI, IN SPEAKING VERY GENERALLY ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF NON-PROLIFERATION, SAID THAT THE FAILURE OF THE PRC TO PARTICIPATE WOULD NOT BE A BAR TO INDIA; RUSSIAN PARTICIPATION WAS SINE QUA NON.
RICHARSON

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